

CLAIMS:

1. Fluorescent lamp (1) comprising a glass discharge vessel (2) in which a gas is present, which discharge vessel (2) is on two sides provided with a tubular end portion (3) having a longitudinal axis, which end portion (3) includes a glass stem (5), wherein an exhaust tube (6) extends axially outwardly from said stem (5) for supplying and/or
5 discharging gases during the production of the lamp (1), and wherein an electrode (8) extends axially inwardly through the stem (5) for generating and maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel (2), said electrode (8) comprises two pole wires (9) held in position by the stem (5) and connected to plug pins (11) of an end cap (13) fixed to said end portion (3), characterized in that said end cap (13) is at least substantially made of a shrink material.
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2. Fluorescent lamp (1) according to claim 1, wherein said shrink material is a heat shrink material.
3. Fluorescent lamp (1) according to claim 2, wherein said heat shrink material is
15 chosen from the group consisting of PVC, polyolefin's, nylon or polyester.
4. Fluorescent lamp (1) according to claim 2 or 3, wherein said heat shrink material is activated at a temperature varying between 80° and 200° C, preferably between 100° and 150° C.
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5. Method for manufacturing a fluorescent lamp (1), wherein a glass discharge (2) vessel is on two sides provided with a tubular end portion (3) having a longitudinal axis, wherein the end portion (3) is provided with a glass stem (5), wherein an electrode (8) is fitted to extend axially inwardly through the stem (5) for generating and maintaining a
25 discharge in the discharge vessel (2), wherein an exhaust tube (6) is fitted to extend axially outwardly from said stem (5), through which exhaust tube (6) the discharge vessel (2) is filled with a gas, and wherein two pole wires (9) of said electrode (8) are held in position by the stem (5) and are connected to plug pins (11) of an end cap (13) fixed to said end portion

(3), characterized in that said end cap (13) is fixed to said end portion (3) through shrinking, preferably heat shrinking.